AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Presently Amended) A guide wire structure for facilitating the positioning of an the distal end a surgical device in the gastrointestinal tract of a patient, ~~insertion into an interior space defined by a wall~~, the guide wire comprising a continuous, unitary wire comprising a flexible elongate first segment, a flexible elongate second segment, and a flexible third segment disposed intermediate the first and second segments, wherein the third segment functions as a hinge and is positioned distally relative the first and second segments, the third segment having a bending moment of inertia less than a bending moment of inertia of the first segment and less than a bending moment of inertia of the second segment; the first and second segments being slideably received by a channel associated with an endoscope having a distal end; the first, second, and third segments defining a loop distally beyond the distal end; the first and second segments are independently slideable relative the endoscope to selectively vary the loop geometry.

2. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment has a cross-sectional area less than the cross sectional areas of the first segment and the second segment.

3. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first, second, and third segments have circular cross sections.

4. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first, second and third segments have non-circular cross-sections.

5. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the wire is formed of Nitinol.

6. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 further comprising an indicator associated with at least one of the segments for differentiating the segments.

7. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 7 wherein the indicator comprises a visual indicator.

8. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 7 wherein the indicator comprises a marking associated with at least one of the segments.

9. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling at least one of the first and second segments.

10. (Original) The guide wire structure of claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling each of the first and second segments.

11. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 comprising a sleeve encircling the first segment and a sleeve encircling the second segment, wherein the first and second sleeves are visually distinguishable.

12. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is at least about 7 feet.

13. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is between about 7 feet and about 25 feet.

14. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the combined length of the first segment, the second segment, and the third segment is at least about 20 feet.

15. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the first segment has a length of at least about 6 feet, and a generally circular cross-section having a diameter of between about 0.011 inch to about 0.035 inch.

16. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 15 wherein the third segment has a diameter of between about 0.005 inch and about 0.010 inch.

17. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the first segment has a length of at least about 6 feet, wherein the first segment has maximum cross-sectional dimension of no more than about 0.035 inch, and wherein the third segment has a maximum cross-sectional dimension of no more than about 0.010 inch.

18. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment is bent.

19. (Original) The guide wire structure of Claim 1 wherein the third segment provides an elastic hinge.

20. (Presently Amended) A guide wire structure comprising:

a flexible elongate first segment of a generally constant diameter;

a flexible elongate second segment of a generally ~~generally~~ constant diameter;

a flexible third segment having a diameter less than that of the first and second segment diameters and being capable of bending between a first position where the first and second segments are axially aligned and a second position where the first and second segments extend proximally from the third segment and generally parallel one another;

a tapered segment of decreasing diameter extending from the first segment to the third segment; and

a tapered segment of decreasing diameter extending from the second segment to the third segment;

the first and second segments being slideably received by a channel associated with an endoscope having a distal end; the first, second, and third segments defining a loop distally beyond the distal end; the first and second segments are independently slideable relative the endoscope to selectively vary the loop geometry.

21-23. (Withdrawn)

24. (New) The guide wire structure of claim 20, wherein the first and second segments are received by the same channel.